

Canandaigua Mar. 30 - 1852

Mr. Garrison -

4 Dear Friend - The East Standard notifies the Annual Meeting of the American A. S. Society to be held at Syracuse - We had not expected the notice to appear so soon and therefore had not written in reference to ^{the} place of meeting as was our intention to have done before the call was issued -

We think the meeting should, by all means, be held in Rochester instead of Syracuse this year, for the following among other reasons.

1st The hall in Syracuse is ~~very~~ small as you are aware - They have not got a larger one built as was anticipated last year - The hall in Rochester is very spacious and elegant - I have never seen so fine a building for conventions - Will hold two thousands -

2^d There is much more anti-slavery hospitality in Rochester than in Syracuse - The friends in that place are very desirous that it should be held there.

3^d We shall have a large number of the abolitionists of the country present, as there are more abolitionists in the country around R. as well as in the city than in (and around) Syracuse.

4th We shall raise more money for the persons that the vicinity of R. has been pleased to raise funds to defray the expense of the recent trials, and now May's Church is to be rebuilt by those in Syracuse to whom, mainly, the cause of the slave looked

for help—again, the American Society has more friends
about Rochester—

5th It is well in order to enlist the sympathies of a larger
number of persons in our cause that we change the place of
our meetings annually, as does the General Assembly, Gen.
Conference, American Board of Com. & M. &c. &c. —

6 A Society was formed at Rochester, ^{two days since} on the occasion
of an affair called an "Anti Slavery Festival", got up by
Julia Griffiths and a few Victorians whom she had drawn
in. A Convention was called to aid the festival, alias to put
money into the hands of Douglass. — This Convention had the
effrontery to call their little society "the New York State
A.S. Society". There had not been a case issued for a
convention for the formation of a State Society — Indeed
the abolitionists of the State had no intimation that it
was contemplated to form a State Society — Douglass had
intimated in ~~the~~ his paper, the week preceding the convention
alias, festival, that he hoped something would be done in ref-
erence to the formation of a Society — We were then because
we found it convenient to pass through the city at that
time. Indeed, we had made it convenient ^{to do so} as we have
felt it necessary to keep an eye on Douglass. He is
playing a double part in order to get aid from all
parties, and our good honest friends have been induced to
pour their money and sympathy without stint into his
lap — Stephen Managor at the convention to develop
his true spirit and character, by moving that the new
Society be made auxiliary to the American — Douglass
was filled with wrath and rage, among other things of the
same character, that this motion was an insult. Such a
trade of abuse I have seldom heard poured out on the

American Society by the interest of the 1840 New organization-
tists — But I can give you no idea of this malignity,
suffice it to say that those of our friends who were pres-
ent were saved from being further duped by him and
they were most thankful for Stephen's presence.

Now if our anniversary shall be held at Rochester
Douglass will have to show his colors more definitely
than heretofore — The sover. is fully developed the
better — That Misses Julia Griffiths is doing all that
in her power to make people on both sides the
Atlantic think that we are an infidel association
and unfit to stand with in any reform. — She told
Gally Holley that if she had any self respect she
would not be found in such company as ourselves and
then showed her the abuse of us in the British Banner
and told her the character of our Society would be
better known before long — We were to be opposed — B. &
Goodell and other New organizers are hand in glove
with Douglass — Goodell told S. Holley last summer
that he deeply regretted that she would identify herself
with us so much as to lecture in connection with us.

In short we have got to fight over again in N.Y.
with Douglass & co. the battles of New organization which
we went through with in N.E. twelve years ago — The
sover. that battle is fought and the better. Let our next
meeting be held in Rochester and our work is greatly facili-
tated. I ought to have said further back that we have
no doubt but a large number of little New organizationists
were informed by private circular what was intended to be done
at Rochester week before last as they were there and others were not
and they went to work as if they had their business all settled

Signature — How much Julia Griffiths, leaning on the reputation which Douglass obtained in Great Britain will be able to do against us I know not but be assured they will do what they can.

Again — Such stories as are in circulation against Geo. Thompson ~~the~~ would fill you with amazement — Douglass reports that he is a drunkard and that while he was in Toronto last Spring he drank brandy and ale — This he said to Gerrit Smith — To me he said it was ale he drank but that he was intoxicated and not able to make a ^{clearly} speech — Again, he declares that Thompson was brought before the police in London while he was in England, for a drunken fight in an omnibus — and that this took place just after he had made a great figure at a peace meeting. That Thompson has repeatedly signed the total pledge and as often has violated it. Such reports, and others as false, Douglass is circulating, as you will understand, because he is in a tight place — He was willing to use Thompson to any extent while he was here, and yet now that he is absent he is shipping these reports. — If Thompson ~~was~~ the man Douglass represents him ^{to be} why he is silent about him when he was here and now in his absence attack him thus meanly? — I tell you again we have got to regard Douglass as an enemy — For he is an enemy — He would be glad to make out all our friends in England as low and vile — And as for our best friends here he is doing the same thing in regard to them — Speaks of Pillsbury as shaking him with his influence and infidelity in large companies of our enemies — But, Oh dear! I have a volume of wickedness of Douglass & Co. — Canvassing to tell you what are such — Know of our meeting? Shall be held in Rochester the true friends of the slave will see more distinctly what we are and ^{they} will be less likely to be misled —

Yours very truly A. H. Foster

I hope the Com. will change the place of the meeting to Rochester — We shall have more of our friends from the West, among the other advantages.

Ms. A. 1. 2. 21. 11